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## Edward Barlow's depiction of a living rhinoceros in transit to London in 1683

Edward Barlow (1642–c. 1706) was a globetrotting mariner. Although self-taught, he had the rare distinction of having kept a journal in which he not only described his adventures, but also added sketches of ships and scenery. These predate the equally naïve but historically important watercolours of Jan Brandes (1743–1808) by almost a century, yet are comparable in depicting everyday life on ships and in harbours (Rookmaaker and Frankenhuys 2004). Barlow's journal, transcribed first by Lubbock (1934), is in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London.<sup>1</sup>

Barlow was in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India, at the end of 1683. In his journal he noted that “[i]n the country are bred the great beasts called the ‘rhinosarus’, and many wild and cruel tigers, it being a very level country and full of woods and rivers” (Lubbock 1934: 361). This sentence is unusual as he rarely commented on the wildlife in places he visited. It is possible he had enquired about these animals when he saw a living rhinoceros in Calcutta harbour waiting for shipment to England. He even made a watercolour sketch (Lubbock 1934: facing p. 361) (Figure 1), to which he added the following caption: “The emblem of Risnosarss, that was brought from Bangall in ye yeare 1684 and sould at London for two thousand one hundred pound.” The sketch has all the characteristics of an Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*).

This specimen, known to historians as the First London Rhinoceros, was exhibited in England from 23 August 1684 to 21 September 1686 (Clarke 1986; Rookmaaker 1989, 2007). It did not accompany Barlow on the *Kent* (which arrived in London on 27 June 1684); instead



Figure 1. Sketch by Edward Barlow of “a Risnosarss” in Calcutta in 1683 before shipment to London (detail, reproduced approximately original size; by courtesy of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich).

it was transported on board the *Herbert* with Captain Henry Udall. This rhinoceros was shown to the public at the Bell Savage Inn on Ludgate Hill in London while the unnamed, still unknown owner looked apparently without success for a buyer. Its life remains largely undocumented as there are only a few contemporary references, no scientific reports, and just this one known pictorial representation (Rookmaaker 1978; Faust 2003).

Barlow’s sketch is noteworthy as a contemporary one of an animal specimen in India made before shipment, as well as one of the little-known First London Rhinoceros.

#### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> URL (accessed 21 February 2018): <http://collections.rmg.co.uk/archive/objects/505786.html> (The journal of Edward Barlow). National Maritime Museum, London, JOD/4/1. The rhinoceros sketch is on p. 104.

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### William Henry Harvey (1811–1866): addenda to bibliography

Nelson and Parnell's (2002) annotated bibliography of the Irish botanist William Henry Harvey requires one addition (here numbered **0**, because by date it precedes all the others), and more information has been obtained about the enigmatic item *The Maniac* (**3**).

- 0.** 1830. *Myself: A Poem. Canto I, II*. Dublin; R. D. Webb. Pp 45.

**Notes:** Best described as an autobiography in verse, this comprises a two-stanza "Dedication", sub-headed "To Myself", followed by "Canto I" of 50 eight-line stanzas and "Canto II" of 64 stanzas. It was printed by Richard Davis Webb (1805–1872), a well-known Quaker printer in Dublin, who was also responsible for *The Maniac*, and who had attended the Quaker school in Ballitore, County Kildare, at the same time as Harvey (McAuliffe 1984; Harrison 1993).

That *Myself* was written by William Henry Harvey is clearly signalled by fragments of autobiography. Stanza XI, Canto I, has his date of birth: "In 'February-fill-the-dykes' my natal hour / Was cast; upon the fifth day of her moon / My bardship saw the light: ...". Stanza XX, Canto I, refers to his eldest surviving brother, Reuben, as well as "Misther Joseph", undoubtedly their father, Joseph Massey Harvey. In Canto II, stanza LI, his first school is named: "Months rolled along, and I was sent to dwell / At Newtown-school, near Waterford—a place / Liked by few school-boys ...". Harvey was a pupil in this famous, extant Quaker school on the outskirts of Waterford, before attending another renowned Quaker school in Ballitore, County Kildare. In stanzas LII and LIII, Canto II, "Myself" recalled a school trip, "a day of pleasure", rising at 5 o'clock, "and leaping out of bed, / Full forty brats indued themselves with clothes / and hopes of happiness ...". At Tramore, on the coast south of Waterford, most boys went cockling, some went swimming, whereas "... I almost singly went / to seek for tiny shells ...". Harvey claimed in March 1827 to "know only about two hundred and fifty native" shells. He maintained this interest in conchology at least into the 1830s; Harvey is indeed credited with describing and naming several taxa of Mollusca (Thompson 1840a; Thompson and Goodsir 1840). William Thompson remarked, when naming *Rissoa harveyi*, now *Folinella excavata* (Phillippi, 1836), that it was dedicated "to its discoverer, who had successfully studied our native Mollusca before his attention was directed to botany, in which department his labours have now long been know and appreciated" (Thompson 1840b).